

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is releasing the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Ashley Valley Energy Route and invites you to review the EA and provide your comments on the document during the 30-day review period that extends from July 27, to August 26, 2015. Copies of the EA are available on the project website as described below.

The Ashley Valley Energy Route is a Uintah County right-of-way application to build a new roadway within a 300-foot wide right-of-way that would extend from U.S. Highway 40 near the McCoy Flat area, along 6500 South to U.S. Highway 40 on 4625 East. The proposed route would be approximately 12.4 miles in length, of which 2.7 miles would involve BLM-administered land, 6.3 miles would involve School and Institution Trust lands, and 3.4 miles would involve private land. The proposed roadway is designed to reduce traffic congestion and improve public safety through downtown Vernal and Naples areas. Heavy commercial and oil and gas industry vehicles traffic is expected to increase over the long-term with renewed and continued growth of the oil and gas industry. Often these industry-related commercial vehicles carry explosive and hazardous materials posing potential threats to public health and safety. The proposed action would route this traffic south of Vernal.

In consideration of public comments received during the public scoping period held May 12 through June 12, 2014, the BLM has developed alternatives to the proposed action and prepared an EA to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental impacts that could result from the Ashley Valley Energy Route (Alternative A), as well as the Dog Valley Route Alternative (Alternative B), the Sage-grouse Mitigation Alternative (Alternative C), and the No Action Alternative (Alternative D) (please refer to the map).

After completion of the public comment period, BLM will review any comments received, revise the EA as appropriate, and then issue a decision on whether or not to grant a right-of-way on the land administered by the agency.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Action	Date(s)	Status
Public Scoping	May 12 – June 12, 2014	Completed
Public Scoping Meeting	June 5, 2014	Completed
➤ <b>Public Review</b>	<b>July 27 – August 26, 2015</b>	<b>In progress</b>
➤ <b>Open House Meeting</b>	<b>August 14, 2015</b>	<b>6-8 p.m., UBATC, Vernal</b>
Final EA and Decision Record Issued	Winter 2015/2016	Pending

## WHEN TO PROVIDE YOUR REVIEW COMMENTS

BLM will accept written review comments on the EA from July 27 through close of business August 26, 2015.



## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW PROCESS?

***You can attend the Open House:*** An open house will be held on Friday, August 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the UBATC on the USU Vernal campus, located at 320 North Aggie Boulevard. Come at any time from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., there will not be a formal presentation or open microphone. However, representatives from the BLM will be present to discuss the project with you and answer any questions on the EA that you may have.

***You can review the EA and submit written comments during the Public Comment Period:*** The public review period is being held so that members of the public can provide written comments on the EA. The most useful comments will provide specific details about any errors or oversights in the EA. All comments will be reviewed, and all substantive comments will receive an official response and become part of the official record.

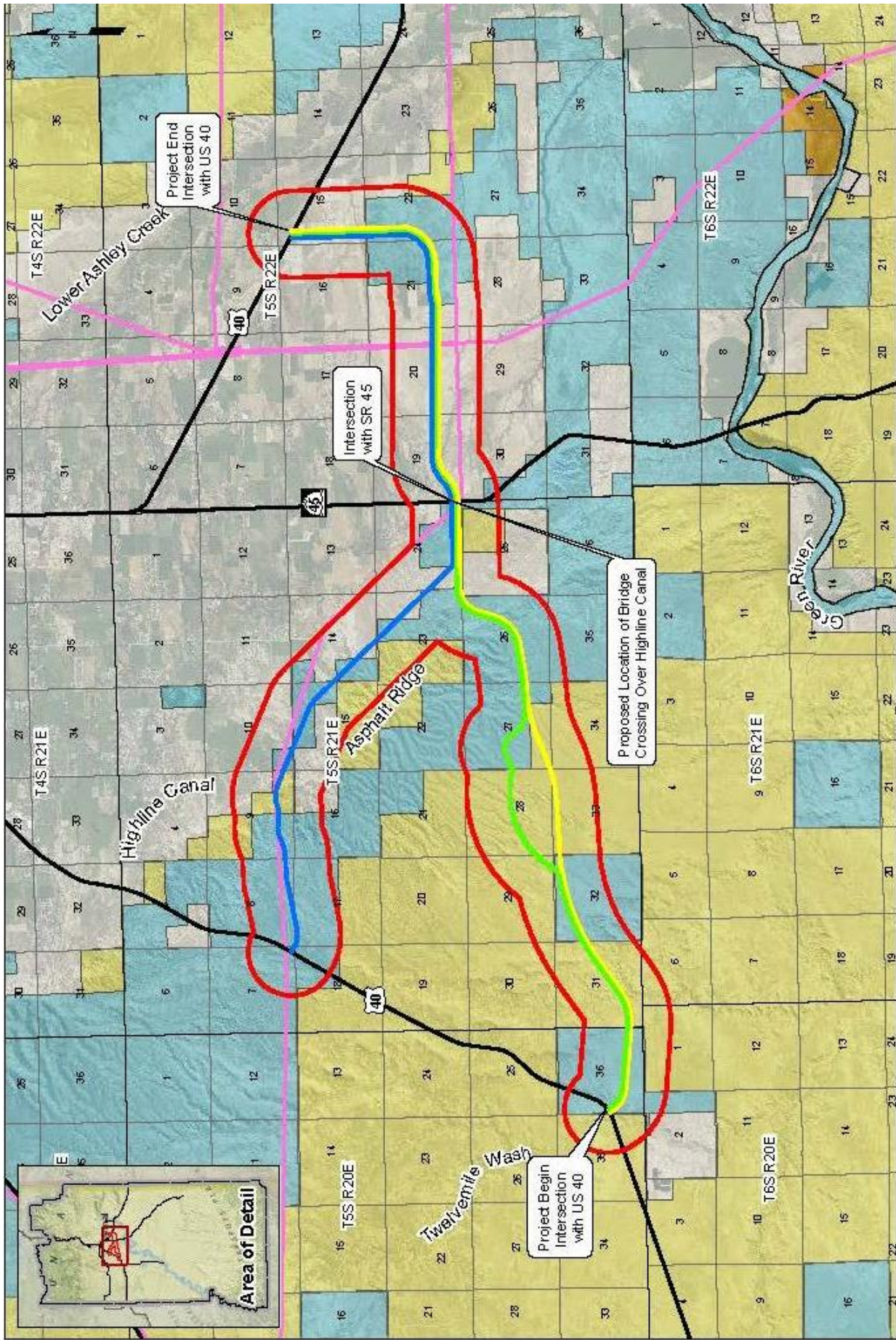
The document is posted on the project website. To obtain a copy, go to [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). Once you are there, choose the “Text Search” tab, then the “Advanced Search” link. In the “Project Name” field type in “Ashley Valley Energy Route” then click on “Search”. Click on the project NEPA number, and then click on the “Document” link.

Written comments must be submitted by August 26, 2015. Please reference “Ashley Valley Energy Route” when submitting your comments. Comments can be submitted by any of the following methods:

- In person at the open house, or the Vernal BLM Field Office
- U.S. Mail:
  - Vernal Field Office, BLM
  - ATTN: Stephanie Howard
  - 170 South 500 East
  - Vernal, UT 84078
- E-mail: [blm\\_ut\\_vernal\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_vernal_comments@blm.gov)
- Project website: Just click on the “Comment on Document” button.

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in any comments, be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.





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PROJECT NO. 13501

DRAWN: 7/15/2015

DRAWN BY: ALE/OND

CHECKED BY: M. Brindall

FILE NAME: 13501-01.dwg

**Utah County**

Ashley Valley Energy Route  
Alternative Comparison  
Utah County, Utah

**Figure 2.1-1**